

Austin Statesman.

TATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

FRYTON BROWN, President and Gen. Manager. R. J. HILL, Vice-President. HENRY W. BROWN, Secretary.

THE SOP REFUSED.

Speaker Crisp, in his letter to Mr. Mills offering him the second place on the committee on ways and means, together with the chairmanship of some minor committee, apparently reckoned without his host. It was an unkind and unjust thing to do. If he really expected that Mills would feel flattered, and that he would humbly hasten to accept the offer, then he is woefully deficient in tact and discernment, and is the last man that ought to occupy the speaker's chair. If he did not expect him to accept it, then he merely offered it as an insult, and intended to humiliate his vanquished rival. It would have been infinitely better taste to have ignored Mr. Mills altogether rather than have made him such an offer. Mr. Mills did right to resent it as he did, and there is not a manly heart in the whole country that will not, secretly or openly, applaud him for it.

The closing sentence of Mr. Mills' declination reads: "I leave to you, without suggestion from me, to make such other arrangement as you, in the discharge of your official duty, may determine." Does this not very plainly give Mr. Crisp to understand a fact which the whole country will join in impressing upon him? That is that committees are appointed to attend to public business and were not established simply as a means through which speakers in their appointments might express their thanks to those who helped them to office. And as the committees do infinitely the greatest part of legislative work, it is more important for Mr. Crisp to carefully perform his "official duty" in selecting those men most especially fitted for their respective committees, than it is to wield the gavel in his chair of state. Mr. Mills' peculiar connection with the tariff for years, his chairmanship of the ways and means committee when the Democrats were last in power and his long service on that committee all entitled him to the appointment as chairman now; not to mention that common courtesy dictated that Mr. Crisp should make this appointment. His offer of second place means either one of two things; he wished to insult Mr. Mills, or he feared Mr. Mills' influence with that committee. If the former, Mr. Mills has cast the first rebuke that the country will quickly re-echo; if the latter, then while it is a compliment to Mr. Mills' ability, it also means that Mr. Crisp, the man he selects as chairman of the ways and means committee and their followers mean to insist upon a modification of the Democratic tariff reform cry and possibly the supplementing of it with the free coinage of silver issue. Whatever it may mean Mr. Mills has scored by his letter a ringing victory over an ungenerous rival and strengthened himself with the people everywhere, especially in his own state of Texas.

JUDGE KING QUIETED.

It seems from the court of appeals decision that Judge King in his effort to maintain the dignity of his court against the Bexar county grand jury got hold of the wrong men. The STATESMAN certainly agrees with the court of appeals in failing to see that the position of district judge exempts from a summons to appear before and give information to a grand jury any more than if such judge were an ordinary mortal. As a law officer it would seem he should be more anxious than any one else to see the law expedited and enforced. This doubtless is true of all district judges, only Judge King felt outraged that the dignity of his office was assailed by being served with a notice to appear before the grand jury while he sat enthroned in chair of state. In his pitch of anger however he made the mistake of not discriminating between cause and effect. He pronounced down on the grand jury as the cause of the attachment having been issued rather than on the ill time judging bailiff, who, it seems, was the only guilty party. The court of appeals has now cut off the grand jury from Judge King's indignation, but the poor bailiff is still left him to make an example of.

LIVESTOCK CONVENTION.

It will be remembered that the stock convention that met in Austin last month appointed an executive committee of ten to pass upon future action relative to the stock interests in Texas. That committee met in our city on the 7th of this month and decided to call a state convention to meet in Austin Feb. 2, 1892. The objects of the convention, as stated in the call just issued, are, in its language, as follows:

This convention is called to organize a permanent livestock association of Texas and to take such other steps as may be deemed necessary for the interest and protection of the livestock business generally. It is not in

the special interest of either the cattleman, sheep grower, horse raiser or hog producer, but for the general good of all. We believe this an opportune time for a move of this kind; we believe by united action we can do much to extricate the livestock industry of Texas from its present depressed condition and put it on the high road to prosperity.

The stock business of Texas and the entire country is now undergoing a material change, and to be successful we must take advantage of every possible method of improvement in breeding, raising, feeding, shipping and marketing our stock. In no way can the needed improvements be so readily accomplished as by an organization that will call us together frequently, and afford an opportunity for the free exchange of our ideas and views. The question of quarantine, railroad rates, commission paid to live stock commission merchants, state and national legislation, are a few of the important questions that can be discussed and acted upon with great profit. It will no doubt be found necessary to take some united action in regard to having our state properly represented at the World's fair; in fact all our interests can be much better protected by united action.

All the matters herein mentioned are of importance to one of the very greatest industries of the state. The call is signed by all ten members of the executive committee, and THE STATESMAN hopes to see a large convention assembled on the day fixed, Feb. 2, 1892.

SENATOR PLUMB'S DEATH.

Senator Plumb's untimely taking off so soon after the opening of the session and while men were so absorbed in the crowding political events will be universally regretted. It has become a matter of common occurrence that men prominent in politics or in business pass away suddenly and tragically. The active men of the day do not rust out—they wear out, and the final breakdown always comes suddenly. The members of congress doubtless little expected that resolutions of regret would so soon be in order for one of their number. Senator Plumb was recognized as one of the foremost men of his party; a good man to have as an opponent, in that he was always just and fair, and would condescend to non of the petty trickery which enter into the political methods of most men. Personally he was a favorite with men of both parties, and wherever he went men gathered about him, attracted by his genial manners. The same message that carried the news of his death carried also some speculations as to the manner of man that would be appointed to fill his shoes. It is to be regretted that the Kansas legislature is not in session; as a Democrat or at least a Farmers Alliance man would doubtless be elected to fill his place. As the office is to be filled by appointment, however, it is intimated that Ingalls may go to the Senate.

THE CAPITOL GROUNDS.

The Houston Age says: "If THE AUSTIN STATESMAN thinks the people of Texas want the legislators hurried together in special session to spend a lot of public money for decorative shrubbery THE STATESMAN is probably mistaken."

And State Press of the Galveston News adds:

"If the governor puts the fence in his call he will be equally mistaken. To call an extra session to build a fence would be a grim joke."

This is a merry view to take of the matter of adorning the capitol grounds; but these remarks do not in any way alter the necessity for their adornment. The state has spent "a lot of public money," or land, in building a magnificent capitol, and has left it standing in the midst of an unsightly plot of ground, such as would not be tolerated around any county jail in the state. The discrepancy between the capitol and its surroundings always strikes visitors with peculiar force, and they have been heard to exclaim more than once: "A state that could build such a capitol ought at least to put the grounds in decent condition." THE STATESMAN has never intimated that the extra session should be called for any such purpose, and has said, and still insists that this is one of the subjects which should receive the attention of the called session. And after all, the grimmest "joke" connected with the whole affair is furnished by the present grounds themselves.

SENSELESS BUT DANGEROUS TALK.

The "Industrial Educator," published at Fort Worth, appears to be "educating" in a dangerous direction. One paragraph, addressed to Russell Sage, warns him in somewhat obscure English that he is driving human beings into dynamite, which will blow him up. Another paragraph says: "God has struck the hour of a new and a higher dispensation for America. Shall it come in peace or through the blood and carnage of war? The men and women of this generation must answer."

It is to be hoped that the people of Texas have too much sense to be influenced by such anarchistic bosh as this. The authors of it will do well to remember that the dynamite which gets Russell Sage into a corner merely blows itself into space, and leaves Sage to go on with the usual routine of business.

SPIRITUALISM.

IT IS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT PART IN A MURDER TRIAL.

One Who Raises Spirits From the Dead Declares That She Will Discover the Guilty Ones—A Most Remarkable Letter.

Say what you will; do what you may, there is a vein of superstition in all of you.

In all ages men have been superstitious and the "science of the stars" has been cultivated.

In olden times astrology played an important part in the affairs of men and nations, and astrological predictions were almost universally accepted, and in our day some very learned people are its votaries.

Zadkiel's Astrological Almanac has a world-wide circulation, and it has contained some marvelous predictions which came to pass. Among them in the almanac for 1886 was the prediction of the South Carolina earthquake and the hot waves which swept over America that year.

But what we have to do with now is

SPIRITUALISM

and some of its manipulations as connected with a mysterious and terrible murder which occurred in this county last fall a year ago.

To begin, it must be stated that some two years ago a prominent and well known farmer of this county went to Southern California with the intention of locating there if he found everything as it had been represented and he liked the country.

While there he met a distinguished spiritualist and one who while not seeking notoriety, nevertheless had become noted because of her many successful tracings of the histories of those who called on her, and because of some of her marvelous predictions having been fulfilled.

He went to see this lady to satisfy curiosity, being a total disbeliever in her powers of divination either with or without the aid of spirits. To his astonishment she greeted him familiarly and as if she had been his warm personal friend for years and intimate with his family and affairs. With wonderful accuracy she went and laid before him many important events in his past life; told much of his history and that of his brothers, and with cheerful frankness alluded to escapades of his which he fondly dreamed were forever sealed up in his own bosom. He went into her presence an absolute unbeliever and left a skeptic, but drawn irresistibly into the presence of this remarkable woman again he became a staunch believer in her powers and upon his return to Texas and to his old Travis county home where he still resides, he wrote to her about a certain business matter and in reply received a letter containing advice which he followed and it is said his faith put several thousand dollars into his pocket.

He spoke of this woman to his neighbors, many of whom corresponded with her with satisfactory results and last summer during a campaigning south of town which THE STATESMAN reporter attended, he heard some strange tales of this medium.

THE MURDER CASE.

Well, to shorten the story, the prominent farmer referred to and others who had tested the farmers of the California medium, persuaded a certain gentleman, who has been very active in trying to ferret out the cruel, bloody, murder of Mrs. Whitely, to write to her. He had no faith in such proceedings and it was some time before he could bring himself to the point of writing, but he finally did so and sent the medium a carefully worded letter.

In due time a reply came from the medium and it contained many things that dumbfounded the gentleman.

The letter contained a brief but accurate sketch of his life, and truthfully depicted some of its most prominent events. It told of an accident in which the gentleman came near losing his life, carefully describing the locality and giving details of it that had never escaped the memory of the gentleman himself. It also contains a description of his home, and minutely sketched the room in which he had written the letter, even to telling the location on the walls and description of certain pictures. The celebrated astrologer Cardass of Italy, could not have portrayed the gentleman's past more faithfully. "The astrologer, the stargazer, the monthly prognosticators of Isaiah" could not have been more accurate and truthful.

In addition to all this, it is told, the letter contained a vivid description of the murder of Mrs. Whitely, and to the utter astonishment of the gentleman mentioned Sam Turner, arrested as a suspect and tried at the last term of court. Turner's name had not been mentioned to the medium, and the fact that she mentioned it and told of his arrest and trial deepened the mystery of the letter and strengthened belief in the wonderful power of the writer.

The letter, after describing Sam Turner, positively and emphatically stated that he was innocent of the crime, and strongly intimated that certain manifestation in the spirit world tended to show that the brutal murder had been committed by a white man.

The writer suggested that if a small piece of Mrs. Whitely's dress or bonnet worn at the time of the murder, was sent her she thought she would be able to trace up the case and furnish information that would lead to the discovery of the man who did the killing, if not tell point blank who he is.

Pieces of the dress and bonnet have been sent as desired and the whole neighborhood is breathlessly awaiting further revelations and developments. In the meantime the case against Sam Turner has been transferred to

Hays county, there having been two mistrials in this city.

The letters from the medium have changed the opinion of some who at one time were inclined to believe that Sam was guilty.

CLEVER BANK SWINDLERS.

They Work a Slick Scheme on a Mexican Bank.

Special to The Statesman.

EL PASO, TEX., Dec. 21.—The well known banking-firm of McManus & Son of Chihuahua was molested to the extent of \$38,000 on Saturday. The particulars are as follows: A man answering to the name of Harry Silverberg called at the bank, and in a brisk, businesslike way represented to the bank officials that he was about to make some heavy investments and would need the assistance of the bank in drawing the funds now on deposit in his favor with a certain bank in New York. The bank was willing to accommodate him, providing the bank at the other end said so.

A cipher dispatch was accordingly sent and in due time a purported answer came back also. In cipher, authorizing the Chihuahua bank to advance Silverberg to the amount of \$38,000. A second dispatch was sent and a similar answer was received. Accordingly Silverberg made his arrangements with the bank as follows: Thirty thousand dollars was deposited to his credit. He drew some \$13,000 in currency, both Mexican and American, and left instructions to have forwarded the balance—\$22,000—to a point that he would hereafter name. The disappearance of Harry Silverberg; the telegraph operator that handled the messages, excited suspicion, and upon the receipt of the third telegram which denied all knowledge of Silverberg, it caused the officers to use the wires freely for the arrest of both Silverberg and Charlton. At Laguna officers boarded the train and Silverberg was found in a berth. A general search began and \$9,876 was found. Charlton could not be found on the train and the supposition is that he made his escape overland. The shortage, some \$3500, would appear as the operator's share of the trouble. Silverberg was returned to Chihuahua yesterday morning, and his chances for a long sojourn in the land of Montezuma are good. Up to 2 p.m. today nothing has been heard of Charlton.

A PIRATE CRAFT.

The Crew Rob a Church, a Mine and a Supply Depot.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Dec. 21.—When the little steamer Hattie Gage reaches here Wednesday from Sitka she will be plastered deep with libels. The men on board seem to have been sailing on a piratical cruise in the Arctic ocean, and not only guilty of mutiny, but have robbed a mine, a church and the supply depot of the Alaska Commercial company. It sailed from here last June in command of Capt. Downs for Coal Harbor. On board were two men named Libbey, as passengers. At Victoria the Libbys tried to smuggle aboard liquor, and a row occurred. These two men proposed sailing for a cruise in Behring Sea. They inveigled Capt. Downs ashore and abandoned him. Then with the mate and crew in charge they sailed for adventures. Stopping at a deserted village, Nicholaski, in Alaska, they robbed the Greek church altar; then they visited a gold mine at Little Squaw Harbor, and took material and lumber worth \$7000. Among the lumber was a railroad for carrying ore, which they took to Coal Harbor and set up. The captain and five of the crew were here, and will libel the vessel for wages, while George W. Sessions, owner of the mine at Little Squaw Harbor, will also libel it.

BONNER COMMITTEE REPORTS.

After Investigating the Bank's Finances They Recommend a Compromise.

Special to The Statesman.

TYLER, TEX., Dec. 21.—The committee appointed by the unsecured creditors of Bonner & Bonner, consisting of B. B. Cain, J. F. Onion, Lee Gaston, Alf Duke and Jule Smith made the following report this evening:

Assets liable to execution, \$97,000; liabilities unsecured, \$198,000. About seventy-five of the unsecured creditors were present and voted seventy-two to three to accept the compromise, 50 cents on the dollar offered by the bank. A sub-committee was appointed and will make a report tomorrow. "The undersigned committee appointed by the creditors meeting to report the condition of Bonner & Bonner, the action of the meeting after seeing Bonner & Bonner, and discussing the matter is advised and authorized by them to say to the unsecured that the money is ready to pay the compromise in cash as soon as the creditors sign the acceptance and we think that every unsecured creditor should sign the acceptance at once and advise their attorneys or Bonner & Bonner at once."

J. P. TUCKER,
HENRY MARSH,
W. S. HERNDON."

Field Refusing Food.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—It was said at Ludlow street jail this morning that Edward M. Field, the imprisoned financier, shows signs of weakness, owing to his refusal to take food. He pleaded no appetite when offered breakfast. Cyrus W. Field is resting easy this morning, and his condition is not critical.

MORE INDICTMENTS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Two indictments were returned today against Edward M. Field of the defunct firm of Field, Weichers & Co., by the grand jury. Both indictments specify grand larceny in the first degree and are based on a complaint made by Frank J. Sprague, who charges Field with the larceny of 350 shares of Edison Electric Light company stock which he gave as collateral for borrowed money.

STARVING TO DEATH.

MORE STORIES OF UTTER DESTITUTION IN DURANGO.

The Government Earnestly Trying to Suppress the Facts—Terrible Suffering of the People as Seen by an Eye Witness.

SAN ANTONIO, Dec. 21.—H. R. Marfeldt, a stockman well known here, arrived in the city today, direct from the mountainous district in the western part of the state of Durango, 30 miles north of Papaspuisel, where he has a ranch of several thousand acres. He states that the reports sent out from the City of Mexico, denying that there is great distress in Durango on account of the drought are untrue and inspired by the government which is attempting to prevent the truth from becoming known. He said:

"Last week I traveled the entire Laguna district to Tarreon and the suffering I saw would melt a heart of stone. At one village I found fully 50 families in an actual state of starvation. All were absolutely without food. Their crops have failed for three consecutive seasons. Not a drop of rain had fallen for fourteen months. I saw no deaths from starvation, but was told several had occurred. Incredible as it may seem, the people were actually eating dirt—the black soil peculiar to that section—which they moistened in their mouths. They are not even favored by the cacti bud and wild berries, as these are found to the south and west of that place. There are no food supplies in that section that they could buy even if they had money, as it is so remote that speculators and dealers have not reached them. What these people need is free food, and unless they get it within the next week they will have no use for help of any kind."

PUGILISTIC TALK.

Slavin and Mitchell Land in New York and Talk Fight.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Pugilists Frank P. Slavin and Charlie Mitchell came on the steamer Britanica today. Slavin's object in coming here is to fight. "I am not on a pleasure trip; I am first after Robbet and come to his home to find him." In answer to other inquiries he said: "My first purpose is to arrange a fight with Sullivan. I put him first because he is, in the general opinion, the best man on this side. I will fight under any rules and in any place in any state where a guarantee will be given Mitchell will not be arrested. He won't go south owing to danger of arrest. That is the only objection to New Orleans. We will fight for from \$200 upwards before the club offering the largest purse. If we cannot arrange a go with Sullivan then we will fight anybody else who thinks he is a good one. If I did not think I could whip Sullivan I would not bother him." Mitchell said: "I am not here to fight, but will meet Corbett in a ten-round glove contest any place in New York city for a purse. Will do this just to give Jim a house to exhibit some of those newly developed powers of his. Slavin will meet him in a glove contest or with knuckles, and in case of our failure to arrange with Sullivan would like to hear from him."

Fatal Fall From a Window.

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—At an early hour this morning an officer found a man lying in a pool of blood on the sidewalk in front of a five story building in Plymouth Park. The patrol was summoned but the man died before reaching the station. Letters found in his pocket showed that he was Carl Edgar Johnson, a furniture manufacturer and he had apparently lived in this city. The proprietor of a small hotel on Clark street said the man registered there last night and was assigned a room. He left at 7 a. m. Investigation showed that Johnson had walked up to the fifth story in the Manhattan building and jumped through a glass window. He was found on the fifth floor. Johnson's head was crushed to a pulp and the side wall splattered with blood. He is supposed to have been insane.

A Colorado Shooting Affray.

DURANGO, COL., Dec. 20.—The stage driver from Farmington brought meagre particulars of a serious shooting affray early Saturday morning at Junction City, between two well known young men, Chas. Willett, son of J. G. Willett, and young Pratt. Friday evening there was a dance at Junction City which did not break up until 5 o'clock Saturday morning, after which the young men met and engaged in a quarrel, the nature of which has not been learned. Guns were drawn and Willett shot in the back, and he in turn shot Pratt in the thigh. It is not thought he will live.

Killed on a Steamer.

SAN DIEGO, CAL., Dec. 20.—This morning just before the steamer Coreos Pacheco, running between this port and Lower California, left her berth, Steward J. A. Mackenger informed the captain that he had killed a man and asked to be arrested. He refused to give any particulars. On investigation C. Murrell, a passenger on the boat and a prominent citizen, was found dead in the cabin, shot in the neck. Mackenger had three cuts in his clothing, but no knife was found on either of the men. The affair is a complete mystery.

Havana Sugar Market.

HAVANA, Dec. 20.—Sugar holders are too high for buyers and exporters hold aloof. Stocks on hand are small. Molasses sugar, regular to good polarization, \$2.25 to \$2.37 1-2 gold per quintal; centrifugal 92 to 96 degrees in polarization, in hogsheads, bags

and boxes, \$3.06 1-4 to \$3.11 1-4. Stocks in warehouse in Havana and Matanzas 28 boxes, 183,000 bags and 100 hogsheads. Receipts for week 6300 bags. Exports for the week 3 boxes and 20,500 bags. All bags go to the United States. Spanish gold \$2.38 to \$2.38 1-4.

GARZA'S EVASIVE REVOLUTIONISTS.

One Hundred of Them Located in the Chaparral Near Encinal.

Special to The Statesman.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., Dec. 20.—At least 100 of the revolutionists Catarino Garza's band have been located at Alamito's store, 35 miles southwest of Encinal. J. W. Burr, of Eagle Pass, is in San Antonio, having just completed a seventy mile horse back journey from Encinal. He reports that these men trade constantly at the Alamito store and that they are killing for consumption the cattle of the neighboring ranchmen, making a pretense of paying for them after having forcibly taken them. It is believed by the people of the locality that these men were cut off from Garza in Mexico and driven across by the troops. They have a corps of musicians and preserve a rude military discipline. The country is very brushy and affords almost thorough shelter.

Dallas Devilities.

Special to The Statesman.

DALLAS, TEX., Dec. 20.—An electric car on the Liveoak street line was held up and robbed to-night by two masked men who held pistols on Motorman Johnson, from whom they took \$5. The passengers nor the fare box were not molested.

To-night at the Silver Flow saloon Ed Manning, colored, shot and probably fatally wounded George Bates, also colored. Manning was attempting to commit a nuisance against the ice chest when Gates ordered him away. Manning drew a pistol and shot Gates three times, once through the mouth, breaking his jaw, through the neck and under the left arm. Manning was arrested.

Heirs Turn Up.

Special to The Statesman.

CLEBURNE, TEX., Dec. 20.—In September, 1890, Edward Heyder, a well to do German, died alone in his room in this city. He left no will and no one knew the whereabouts of his relatives. The court appointed an administrator. The estate was valued at forty thousand dollars. A few days ago the children of a deceased brother made application for a division of the estate. Some of the heirs live in America and some in Germany. Heyder made his money here by running a small bakery. He never married.

A Death Sentence.

Special to The Statesman.

WEATHERFORD, TEX., Dec. 20.—The jury in the murder case of R. J. Stephens at noon today announced that it was ready to return a verdict. Judge Patterson had court convened and received the verdict, which was for murder in the first degree with the death penalty assessed. The verdict is generally approved as being a just one. Stephens is the man who some two months ago killed George Steelman in the southern part of this county.

Must Answer for His Crime.

Special to The Statesman.

TEXARKANA, TEX., Dec. 20.—M. M. Dalley, ex-city marshal of Barksdale, Miss., and who was arrested here a day or two ago on information charging him with embezzling about \$1000 or \$1200 of the city's funds while in office, was taken back to the scene of his crime last night by the sheriff of Barksdale, who came for him in answer to a telegram sent by United States Deputy Marshal Edwards, who made the arrest. Edwards received \$125 reward.

Gov. McEnery Accepts.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 21.—A committee, headed by Ex-United States Senator Jones, and composed of members of the recent straight Democratic state convention held in Baton Rouge last week, this morning called upon ex-Governor Samuel Douglass McEnery, their nominee for governor and at present one of the judges of the supreme court, and officially notified him of his selection. Judge McEnery expressed his willingness to accept the nomination, and will write a letter of acceptance in a few days.

THE BALL.

By the Governor's Guard Last Night Attended With Much Success.

When the night man of THE STATESMAN rambled round to the Driskill hotel last night about midnight there was borne to him on the stillness of the midnight air the sweet strains of delicious music and the sound of many hundred tripping feet. Ascending the broad staircase leading to the parlor floor of the palatial hotel he found the Governor's Guard's ball in full swing, with its happy hosts of participants making the immense halls, parlors and dining rooms resound with happy peals of laughter, casting a glow of splendor and brilliancy on all surroundings by their elegance of toilet and distinguished appearance. The entire second floor was beautifully and artistically decorated in red, white and blue bunting tastefully draped from pillar to post, from ceiling to floor. Down the middle of the hall the Guards had stacked arms and draped them with cedar and natural flowers. The dining room was artistically decorated and on each side of the immense center mirror there was proudly displayed two big "G's," which were supposed to be symbolic of the Governor's Guard. The attendance was most flattering to the Guards, and they can in every detail, even the minutest, feel assured of the success of last night's ball.